

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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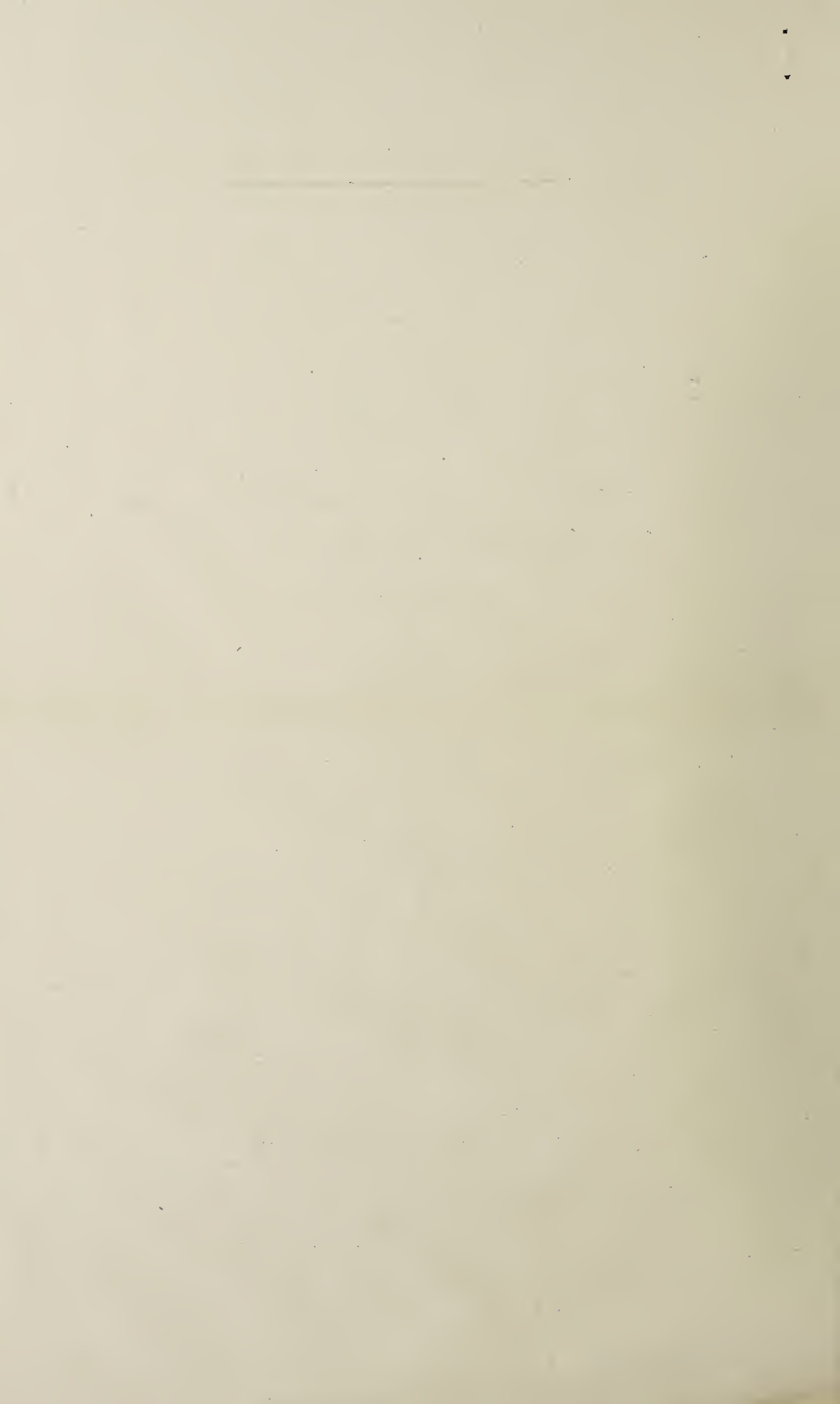
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH , FOR THE YEAR 1943.

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BY..... S.L. WRIGHT, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H

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Public Health Department  
 Old College Buildings,  
 St. Laurence's Churchyard  
 READING  
JULY, 1945

To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors  
 of the County Borough of Reading.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the  
 Minister of Health, I beg to submit an annual report, abridged and  
 mainly factual, of the health and sanitary circumstances of the area  
 for the year 1943.

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area of borough (in acres).....	9,106
Population (Estimated mid-year - Registrar-General).....	113, 000
Registered births - Total.....	1,925
Legitimate.....	1,798
Illegitimate.....	127
Birth Rate (per 1000 of the population).....	17.03
Still-births.....	65
Infant deaths (under one year):-	
Legitimate.....	77
Illegitimate.....	6
Total.....	83
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births):-	
Legitimate.....	42.8
Illegitimate.....	47.2
Total.....	43.1
Registered deaths (all causes).....	1,385
Crude death rate per 1000 of the population.....	12.2
Tuberculosis death rate per 1000 of the population:-	
Pulmonary only.....	0.50
Non-pulmonary only.....	0.11
All forms.....	0.62
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth:-	
From Sepsis.....	1
From other causes.....	4
Total.....	5
Maternal mortality rate (per 1000 births).....	2.6
Cancer death rate (per 1000 of the population).....	1.9

# CHIEF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following summary shows  
 the number of cases of the chief infectious diseases notified during  
 the year, together with the number of deaths from these diseases and  
 the death rates per 1000 of the population.

<u>DISEASE</u>	Number of cases notified	Number of deaths	death rate per 1000 of the pop- ulation	Corresponding death rate for England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	319	-	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	47	6	0.53	0.03
Measles	1415	5	0.44	0.02
Pneumonia (all forms)	47	57 x	0.50	0.59
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	1	0.08	0.07
Ophthalmia				
Hononatorum	12	-	0.00	0.00

x . Not all of these cases were notified.





CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH,  
1943.

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Causes of Death.	All Ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and upwards
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5	1	2	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	6	1	2	3	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	57	1	-	2	27	23	4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	-	1	2	5	4	1
Syphilitic Diseases	6	-	-	-	2	3	1
Influenza	30	2	1	-	3	10	14
Measles	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lethargica	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cancer (all forms)	219	-	1	1	8	79	130
Diabetes	14	-	-	-	1	4	9
Cerebral Haemorrhage	133	-	-	-	2	32	99
Heart Disease	370	-	1	-	12	58	299
Other circulatory Diseases	86	-	-	-	1	8	77
Bronchitis	44	-	-	-	1	12	31
Pneumonia (all forms)	57	7	2	1	7	11	29
Other Respiratory Diseases	23	3	1	-	2	11	6
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	11	-	-	-	-	7	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	9	9	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	11	-	-	2	2	5	2
Other Digestive Diseases	31	2	-	1	5	10	13
Nephritis	32	-	2	-	3	15	12
Puerperal sepsis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Maternal causes	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Premature birth	22	22	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital debility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malformations, etc.	37	33	2	-	1	-	1
Suicide	10	-	-	-	3	4	3
Road accidents	10	-	-	1	4	2	3
Other violent causes	52	2	2	4	12	20	12
All other causes	83	-	2	5	7	14	55
TOTALS	1385	83	25	24	114	332	807

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of children who attended the clinic during the year and completed a full course of immunisation was 2,207. Of this total, 1016 were children under five years of age and 1,191 between the ages of five to fifteen years.



PARK HOSPITAL.

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The following table shows the number and nature of admission to the hospital during the year:-

Disease	Remaining in hospital 1st. Jan, 1943.	Since admitted	Since discharged	Died in Hospital.	Remaining in Hospital 31st Dec. 1943.
Scarlet Fever	12	260	253	-	19
Diphtheria	2	73	66	5	4
Tuberculosis	22	123	102	23	20
Other Diseases	1	13	14	-	-
Totals	37	469	435	28	43

The lack of nursing and domestic staff continued, and wards which had been closed owing to shortage of staff could not be re-opened.

It was not possible to staff the cubicle isolation block and routine admissions were consequently limited to cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and tuberculosis.

The Matron and staff persevered in the face of great difficulties and cheerfully accepted cooking, cleaning or other duties normally far removed from their scope of activity.

Rushcliffe report - Ministry of Health Circulars 2769, 2842 and 2893.

The Council accepted the recommendation to apply the suggested scale of salaries as from April 1st., 1943, for all members of the nursing profession in their employ.





The subjoined table shows the number of notifications of tuberculosis and the number of deaths due to that disease, annually, since the year 1918.

Year 1918-27 (average)	Number of cases notified		Number of deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
	128	18	86	13
1928	183	21	81	28
1929	175	31	108	14
1930	127	15	93	10
1931	108	22	68	17
1932	114	31	66	19
1933	99	13	89	10
1934	102	29	64	13
1935	82	20	75	8
1936	101	17	66	12
1937	82	21	54	19
1938	91	31	58	6
1939	95	40	52	12
1940	117	30	74	18
1941	137	50	78	16
1942	186	40	60	10
1943	185	30	57	13

The following table shows the number of cases undergoing institutional treatment on the 31st December, 1943:-

Name of sanatorium	Number of patients				
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls	Total
Grosvenor	9	3	-	-	12
Berks & Bucks	-	-	2	2	4
Heath End	-	-	4	-	4
Treloar Hospital	-	-	2	2	4
Wingfield Hospital	1	-	3	-	4
Horton Hospital	1	-	-	-	1
St. Michael's Home	-	1	-	-	1
Papworth Hall	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	12	4	11	4	31

#### Memorandum 266/T.

1943 is a notable year in the history of the attack upon tuberculosis. Following a report from a Committee of the Medical Research Council, the Minister of Health issued Memorandum 266/T, which broadly deals with three new measures. Miniature Mass Radiography as an aid to early diagnosis, financial assistance for all cases likely to benefit by treatment and future plans of schemes for rehabilitation. The scheme of financial assistance was put into operation by the Corporation in August, 1943. The After Care Association were asked to undertake the duty of



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considering claims under the scheme, and a Welfare Officer (part-time) appointed to assist them.

Up to 31st December the Committee has dealt with 47 cases for maintenance allowances, 13 special payments and 1 discretionary allowance.

### DISINFECTION

All the work of disinfection rendered necessary by the prevalence of infectious disease, has been carried out during the year. The following summary shows the nature and extent of the work involved.

	Houses	Number of		
		Separate rooms	Beds and Mattresses	Miscellaneous Articles
Reading district	710	725	237	2631
Adjoining "	41	-	121	384
Miscellaneous Institutions	-	43	325	4631
Totals	751	768	683	7646

### DISINFESTATION

(See note included in the section of the report dealing with Housing on page 16.)

### SCABIES

Sessions for the treatment of scabies were commenced on 9th February, 1943 at six of the First Aid Posts established for Civil Defence purposes. These sessions were conducted by the personnel of the Posts. Attendances were as follows:-

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Battle F.A.Post.....	23	27	26	76
Silver Street F.A.Post.....	29	44	26	99
Caversham " " .....	13	69	55	137
Newtown " " .....	22	66	32	120
Grovelands " " ..... x	-	55	82	137
Whitley " " ..... x	-	18	107	125
				<u>694</u>

x No Clinic for males here







VENEREAL DISEASES

From the returns furnished by the Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital, the following short table has been prepared to show the number of persons attending during the year 1943 and the conditions from which they suffered.

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Total Persons
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Under treatment January 1st.1943	38	33	44	37	152
Treated for the first time during 1943.	38	57	102	155	352
Totals	76	90	146	192	504

In addition to the numbers shown in the table, 418 persons attended the clinic who were found to be suffering from conditions other than venereal disease.

As regards persons resident in Reading, the following table shows comparative totals for different years.

	1938	1942	1943
Syphilis	20	29	41
Gonorrhoea	97	64	107
Non-venereal	28	97	179

Venereal diseases has shown a marked increased incidence since 1938, which is common to the Country as a whole. This experience re-affirms the aphorism that "syphilis is the camp follower of war". During 1943, a special propaganda campaign was conducted in Reading as part of the national campaign to combat Venereal Diseases. The increased attendances of non-venereal cases is suggestive of the efficacy of the publicity obtained.

DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939. NO: 33.B

These regulations came into force in January 1943 and up to the end of the year information in regard to 17 contacts had been notified to this department but no success was obtained in tracing these individual cases owing to the vague and inaccurate addresses given and in some cases no addresses at all.



The end of the year 1943 saw the completion of a satisfactory year's work at this hospital. The following statement supplied by the Medical Superintendent, Dr.D.C.Thomas, shows the nature and extent of the work carried out:-

Number of patients admitted.....	3389
Number of patients discharged.....	3205
Number of deaths.....	520
Number of operations carried out.....	816
Number of X-ray examinations.....	2697
Number of patients admitted to Maternity Ward.....	247
General out-patients: Total treatments.....	5049
Gynaecological out-patients Total treatments.....	436
Accident cases treated in casualty department....	561
Massage - New patients.....	232
TOTAL TREATMENTS.....	4779

266 beds remained reserved for Emergency Medical Services purposes. The hospital continued its work as a Class 1A Hospital, following its "up-grading" for this purpose by the Ministry of Health in 1939.

Staffing difficulties were severe in regard to medical, nursing and domestic personnel, but no closure of wards or curtailment of work resulted, for which much credit is due to all concerned.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Infant Consultation Centres. These centres, situated in all parts of the town, continued to be well attended during the year. The total number of children who attended during the year were as follows:-

Under one year of age.....	2,402.
Between the ages of one and five years.....	2,029.





Health Visiting Summary. The scheme of health visiting has been maintained on the same lines as in previous years. Children are visited in their homes from soon after birth until they attain the age of 5 years. The following summary shows the total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:-

First visits after receipt of notification.....	1885
Visits to children aged one to five years.....	15583
Re-visits to children under one year.....	7390
Special visits.....	554
Visits to expectant mothers.....	524
Special visits to cases of measles.....	1152
Special visits to cases of ophthalmia.....	12
Special visits in regard to stillbirths.....	68
Special visits in regard to infant deaths.....	91
Special visits to nursed-out children.....	235
Total.....	27494

Home Helps. Strenuous efforts were made throughout the year to employ women as home helps for domiciliary maternity cases, but no applicants, either part or whole-time, were forthcoming. This shortage reflected the general difficulty regarding domestic labour both domiciliary and institutional which was a constant source of difficulties.

Care of Illegitimate Children. A special Sub-Committee was set up and conferences held to discuss the question of the care of illegitimate children, as suggested by the Ministry of Health Circular No.2866. It was decided that no special hostel was needed, but permission be obtained, as and when required, to send Reading cases to the Hostel for Unmarried Mothers set up by an adjoining authority.

Child Life Protection. At the end of the year there were 33 foster-mothers and 38 foster-children on the register. All of these children came under the constant supervision of the Child Protection Visitors. No complaints were received throughout the year either in regard to the condition of the homes or the children themselves.

to the children themselves.

to the children themselves.

to the children themselves.

There are at the present time 11 homes registered with the local authority, providing bed accommodation for 34 maternity patients and 71 others, a total of 105 beds. All the homes were visited and inspected during the year, and were found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner. No new homes were registered during the year.

#### WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES.

Including three new nurseries which were opened during the year at Blagrove, Caversham and Whitley Park respectively, there were 10 whole-time nurseries functioning in the borough, all of which were well attended. There were, in addition, 3 part-time nurseries which were equally well attended, as will be seen from the following summary:-

#### Average Daily Attendances - Children 0 - 5 years.

##### WHOLE-TIME.

Nursery	Number of places	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Holybrook House	40	28	11	30	32	28	37	36	36	35	31	29	29
Bulmershe Road.	35	29	18	18	26	19	26	27	27	26	28	24	24
Whitley Community Centre	35	21	24	25	21	23	32	32	24	27	25	24	25
Oxford Hall	35	12	18	21	18	25	29	27	23	30	30	22	27
74, London Rd.	35	19	15	24	29	27	30	32	30	31	37	27	24
11, Victoria Square	50	22	18	23	31	31	34	30	42	36	39	35	30
Norcot	45	9	13	12	16	15	22	31	26	35	28	27	23
Blagrove	50	-	-	-	7	12	16	15	19	17	16	20	16
Caversham	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	25	26	39	27	33
Whitley Park	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	13	14	11	9
<u>PART-TIME 2-5 yrs.</u>													
Denmark Hall		18	18	6	16	19	21	17	19	19	19	19	19
Bridge Street		24	18	13	18	23	22	21	22	22	25	20	19
Torrington Rd.		35	37	26	26	29	39	35	31	36	38	34	36

#### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

This clinic has held two sessions weekly at Star Lane and one session every other week at the Whitley Clinic. The following is a record of the attendances:-

<u>Star Lane.</u>	<u>New cases attending</u>	<u>Total attendances.</u>
Tuesday morning	343	1083
Tuesday afternoon	320	840
<u>Whitley Clinic</u>	172	402







During the war, an additional clinic, for Evacuees only, has been held at Star Lane on Wednesday mornings. The number of new cases attending this clinic during the year was 112, making a total of 598 attendances.

A post-natal clinic is held in conjunction with the ante-natal clinics at Star Lane and Whitley, 200 patients, making a total of 910 attendances.

Ante-natal clinics are also conducted by the Midwives of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute and were attended by 207 patients during the year. Patients requiring further examination are referred to the Council clinics.

#### DELLWOOD MATERNITY HOME.

Dellwood Maternity Home may be said to have completed a satisfactory year's work. The number of patients admitted during the year was 343. The number of infants born there represent a little under 18 per cent of all births occurring in the borough during the same period, a rate which compares favourably with that of previous years.

The following further details in regard to the working of the Home during the year may be of interest:-

Number of patients delivered by midwives .. ..	264.
" " " doctors .. ..	79
" cases in which medical assistance was sought by the midwife in cases of emergency ..	95
" cases of puerperal pyrexia .. ..	7
" " ophthalmia neonatorum . . .	Nil.
" infants wholly breast-fed .. ..	290
" maternal deaths .. . . .	Nil
" foetal deaths:-	
(a) stillborn .. . . .	3
(b) within 10 days of birth . . .	Nil

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I am indebted to the Manager and Engineer of the Water Department for the following information in regard to the water supply of the borough during the year:-

"The water supply of the area and of its several parts is very satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Regular examinations of the water supply are made, as follows:-

Monthly Full chemical and bacteriological analyses from Fobney Pumping and Filtration Works (River water)

1. Raw river water.
2. After filtration.
3. After filtration and chlorination  
(Bacteriological only)

Southcote Pumping and Filtration Works (River water).

1. Final water after filtration and chlorination.

Pangbourne Pumping Station. (Borehole water - chalk)

1. After chlorination.

Bath Road Reservoir.

1. Reservoir outlet main.

Weekly.

Partial Bacteriological Examination.

Fobney Works - Final Treated Water.  
Southcote Works - Final Treated Water.  
Pangbourne Works - Final Treated Water.

Full Bacteriological Examination.

Bath Road Reservoir outlet main

The reports invariably state the final treated water and the water from the Reservoir is "consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

During the year, a source of contamination at the Pool Board's Aldermaston Depot was inspected when it was found that petrol and light oil was being allowed to seep into the streams feeding the River Kennet - (the river from which the bulk of the supply is obtained). The matter was brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities and certain remedial works were carried out at the Depot.

As a precautionary measure activated carbon plant was purchased but has not been used.

All houses are supplied direct, excepting an odd standpipe or two in the area of supply."







Shortage of staff and other difficulties associated with war-time conditions curtailed to some extent, the work of this section of the department. The following summary indicates the scope and nature of the work carried out:-

Total number of visits paid - Public Health and Housing Acts.....	6,280
Number of complaints received.....	929
Number of statutory notices served.....	Nil
Number of prosecutions.....	Nil
Number of informal notices served:-	
On owners.....	53
On occupiers.....	75
Number of verbal notices.....	244

All notices were complied with.

There were 180 house drains examined during the year. 86 drains, or sections of drains, were relaid.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are three common lodging houses in the borough. 150 visits of inspection were paid during the year and conditions found to be satisfactory.

Fire Risk Act, 1937.

Number of complaints received.....	11
Number of visits paid.....	39

No statutory notices were served and defects found were remedied by the occupiers.

Canal Boats.

Routine visits were paid to the various wharves abutting on the rivers Thames and Kennet. No boats were found to be used as dwellings.

Caravans.

There are 17 caravans in the borough permanently used as dwellings. Movement of population on war work has caused a temporary increase in the number of caravans used as dwellings. 18 were licensed during the year. All are on isolated sites and have sufficient water supply and sanitary accommodation. 87 visits of inspection were paid during the year. No nuisances were observed.



There are six of these trade premises in the borough. All of them are well conducted and no complaints were received. 215 visits of inspection were paid during the year.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919.  
Infestation Order, 1943.

Active measures were maintained during the year in connection with the destruction of rats and mice.

377 complaints were received. 954 visits of inspection were made and 1084 dead rats were picked up.

A comprehensive programme of work, on the lines laid down in the Infestation Order, 1943, is at present receiving the consideration of the Council and will be put into operation as soon as circumstances permit.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(1) Inspection of dairies and cowsheds.

A number of milk retailers have gone out of business during the year. There are 16 cowsheds on the register. All of these premises were visited and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

(11) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-42.

Under these Regulations, the Local Authority is the Licencing Authority. The number and nature of the licences issued during the year are set out in the following table:-

Producers licences	"Tuberculin Tested".....2
do	"Accredited".....6
do	"Pasteurised".....5
Dealers Licences	"Tuberculin Tested" (Certified).....2
Bottling Licences	"Tuberculin Tested".....6
do	"Pasteurised".....6
Retailers Licences	"Tuberculin Tested".....18
Supplementary licences:-	
Dealers	"Tuberculin Tested"..... 1
do	"Accredited"..... 2

One hundred and twenty visits were made to farms and dairies where designated milk was produced or treated. 87 samples of milk were taken during the year.





Number of samples taken	Number in which tubercle bacilli present	Rate per cent found tuberculous
19	1	5.2

School Milk Supplies.

Grade supplied	Quantity in gallons daily.
Pasteurised	429

Foodstuffs.

During the year a considerable amount of time was taken up with the examination of foodstuffs at the various premises and food stores in the area, a total of 616 visits being paid to these premises.

7,120 tins of food and 13,355 lbs of other foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human food and either destroyed or salvaged for animal feeding. In addition, approximately 23 tons of various tinned foodstuffs, examined on behalf of the Ministry of Food Salvage Department, were found to be unfit for food and sent to salvage.

Meat Inspection.

Under wartime regulations of the Ministry of Food, there are no private slaughterhouses operating. All slaughtering for the area is done at the Corporation Abattoirs and one other slaughterhouse under their control. There is one bacon factory and slaughterhouse operating under the same authority.

All animals at these slaughterhouses are examined by the meat inspector before passing on for allocation to the borough and surrounding districts.

Food and Drugs Act.

The number and description of the samples submitted for examination by the Public Analyst are set out in the following table:-



Articles	Number of samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
New milk	258	229	29
Aspirin	1	1	
Baking Powder	1	1	
Bicarbonate of soda	1	1	
Bread	3	3	
Butter	1	1	
Cake flour	1	1	
Cornflour	1	1	
Coffee	3	3	
Custard Powder	1	1	
Gelatine	1	-	1
Malted Milk tablets	1	1	
Milk, Machine skimmed	1	1	
Milk, full cream dried	1	1	
Pepper	1	1	
Pudding Powder	1	1	
Sausage meat	1	1	
Self raising flour	1	1	
Vinegar malt	1	1	
Vinegar spirit	1	1	
Saccharine	3	3	
Cocoa	1	1	
TOTALS	285	255	30

In two cases where the milk was found not to be up to standard, proceedings were instituted against the persons concerned. In one case a fine was imposed and the other case was dismissed on payment of costs.

#### HOUSING.

##### 1. Inspection of Houses.

- (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Act or Housing Acts.....316
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....1311

- 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... 258.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 258





3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state  
so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....1  
(10 Mount Pleasant)

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of paragraph 3)  
found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for  
human habitation.....145

5. Remedy of defects without formal notice.. .....143

6. Action under statutory powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the  
Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices  
were served requiring repairs..... 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit  
after service of formal notices:-

(a) (i) By owners..... 2  
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... -

B. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,  
1936.

(i) Undertaking not to let (10 Mount Pleasant)..... 1

Verminous Houses.

Number of complaints received..... 359  
Number of Inspections..... 508  
Number of rooms disinfested..... 534



I am indebted to Dr. William Ogden, the Medical Superintendent of Berkshire Mental Hospital for the following report on the working of the Hospital during the year:-

ACCOMMODATION

"There has been no change during the current year, but it will be noted that accommodation has been falling gradually since 1938 though the deficiency has been offset by the taking over of Hungerford Institution. The reduction has been in night accommodation, which was in excess of day, and is a first step towards making day and night wards into units, so that each ward has its own day and night accommodation, thus avoiding the "general post" which has long been the rule at bedtime. The main cause of the reduction is the necessity for providing accommodation for nursing staff which (even with the additions made and the occupation of a number of patients' single rooms) will not house more than a bare minimum of staff, the rest is due to the slow provision of such amenities as baths for staff, sluiceroom etc. Steps are being taken to remedy deficiencies of accommodation when it is again possible. As regards patient accommodation the position would be very serious if the pre-war increase had continued, but it has been possible in spite of a large increase in admissions to reduce the actual number of patients since 1938, so that the position would be better as regards overcrowding compared to 1938 if the evacuated patients could be returned to their own hospitals. Even so there is no prospect of leaving Hungerford Institution in the post-war period for many years."

The total accommodation provided by the hospital is:-

<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
436	637	1073

This includes the 109 beds at Hungerford Public Assistance Institution.

Of this total, the number of Reading patients dealt with were as follows:-

<u>ADMISSIONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Certified	14	25
Voluntary	15	26
Temporary	-	-
<u>DISCHARGES</u>		
Certified	6	15
Voluntary	17	22
Temporary	-	1
<u>DEATHS</u>		
Certified	0	11
Voluntary	1	2
Temporary	-	-





OUT-PATIENTS CLINIC AT THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL

The number of Reading patients dealt with during the year were as follows:-

New Patients.....	188
Patients who had been in the mental hospital.....	21
Old patients returned.....	22
Cases carried on from previous year.....	13
	<hr/>
TOTAL.....	244

Total recorded attendances made by these patients.... 749

MENTAL DEFICIENCY . ACCOMMODATION

The number of patients accommodated in Borocourt during the year was 100, of whom 50 were males and 50 females. Three males and one female were accommodated in other mental institutions.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

The blind people of Reading are cared for by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind. At the end of the year 1943-44 the number of blind was 77 males and 100 females, making a total of 177. The Association pays out domiciliary assistance to the necessitous blind, arranges for the blind to be visited and taught to read in their own homes, and holds Pastime Classes twice a week at 49, Minster Street when handicrafts are taught. The Association provides the Blind, through the kindness of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, with free wireless sets and pays for the up-keep of the same. It arranges for free wireless licenses, free passes on the Corporation buses and free passes to the Cinemas, also for the provision of white walking sticks.

CREMATION

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. During the year under review, 286 cremations were carried out.

